characteristic feature, except so far as this very absence of features is characteristic of very late debased work. It will not be too hazardous to replace these with round arches supporting a clerestory, or perhaps, it may rather be called, with reference to its interior effect, a lantern. The aisle roofs were not, I imagine, groined; for, had there been vaulting, the pillars would most likely have had attached vaulting shafts, and some traces of the spring of the groining ribs would remain in the aisle walls.

The interior of the chancel follows sufficiently from what has been said of the exterior, except that there was probably a richly moulded chancel arch.

All that has been hitherto said refers to the original, or early Norman, church.

We now proceed to trace the changes which the fabric has undergone. And here we observe that, in almost every instance, St. Sepulchre's has been most unhappy in its treatment, even the earliest alteration being singularly ill considered. It consisted chiefly in the addition of a north aisle to the chancel; and this we will first examine.

Standing in the chancel, we are struck with the difference between the two series of piers and arches: that to the north is of two pointed arches of two plain chamfered orders, resting on a pillar, and two responds; the pillar of a section which, with a little more grace of execution, would be very rich, a circle with four attached clusters of three bowtells each, and a moulded capital; the responds rectangular, of two orders in plan, and with semi-Norman foliated capitals. These arches are surmounted by a hood of a very early section, viz., a half-round, a little pointed; and this runs up almost into the old Norman corbel-table. The arches, therefore, were cut out of the walls, and underbuilt as they now appear. The hood before mentioned, over the arches, occurs again in other parts of the church, and helps to decide the extent of the alterations of the same date with this aisle: it will be found at the junction of the north aisle with the round, showing that the aisle then added had the same width that it now has, though we shall presently find that it submitted to great changes afterwards. The same string occurs, also, over the door, which has so unhappily cut into a window at the north side. That a north door to the round should be added, together with a north aisle to the chancel, is natural enough; but by what perversity of design it should have been so placed, it passes my power to divine. These changes were made, I presume, about 1180 or 1190. The east window of the aisle in question is, in some respects, a little late for this date; but, in other respects, as especially in the jamb shaft in the interior, it quite accords with it. This window is a very plain lancet triplet, with the centre light higher than the others.

At the same time with the erection of this aisle, the chancel arch was also rebuilt, for, though the present arch is Perpendicular, the bases of the jambs rest on semi-Norman bases, older than themselves, but more recent than the round; probably, too, the whole chancel was remodelled.

The next change was, in all probability, the addition of a south aisle to the chancel. The present south aisle is of recent construction, but a string carried round it, and also the mouldings of the arches, prove that old materials are used in it, and these materials are Decorated — about 1320, perhaps; —and, as it would be extremely natural that the building of a south aisle should be followed by such changes as would make the north aisle in some degree uniform with it, I presume that, shortly after, the north aisle was nearly rebuilt, and the present buttresses and windows added. Thus far the changes at this date were, perhaps, judicious enough, but I fear that then the windows, or some of them, which have so dreadfully dislocated the masonry, and destroyed the character of the round, were cut out, with a disregard even of buttresses, not inferior in rashness to the insertion of a door with the point of the arch running up into the side of the window, which had already taken place. Thus treated, had not the west porch and the east chancel kept it up, I suspect the whole church would have fallen; as it was, the walls began to cry aloud for support, and soon after the two great buttresses at the north-west were built.

We have now a Norman round, much patched, it is true, with chancel and aisles partly semi-Norman and partly Decorated. If, which is not improbable, the lantern perished soon after the strange tampering with the outer walls, the church would demand a steeple, and this was, in fact, built about the last quarter of the fourteenth century. I do not in this paper concern myself with details, except as they indicate date; but I cannot refrain from calling attention to the exquisite arrangement of the tower and spire. The buttresses are admirably adapted to carry up the eye to the spire. The junction of the tower and spire is of a kind not easily described and far from common, but which maintains the same unity of effect more perfectly than the ordinary method with angular squinches. The door is of several recessed orders; the mouldings, both of this and of the belfry windows, are so little removed from the Decorated that the date may be said to be pretty nearly defined by them.

Would that our notice of past changes might cease here; but, alas! the chancel was again tampered with, a new chancel arch and east window were inserted, the window not bad in design for the style. The chancel was also newly-roofed, the corbels being, I think, of this date; they represent grotesque musicians: an organist, a bag-piper, a fiddler, a man playing on a Jew's harp, one on a double drum, and one on a keyed instrument, which can be nothing but a precursive shadow of the street accordion of the present day. It is, indeed, more like an accordion than the fiddle is like a fiddle, or the bagpipe a bagpipe, though both these are veritable ancient instruments. The much-enduring round, too, had a wide arched recess, made at its south side, perhaps, for a tomb, and a porch of excessive meagreness was added; and, last of all, but when I presume not to say, the present octagon was run up, and the south aisle of the chancel rebuilt.

Of the future prospects of this church I do not know how far it is my province to speak, but at least, will be understood that what I say will not commit the society.

Shortly after the restoration of St. Peter's Church was committed to this society, the vicar of St. Sepulchre's made several suggestions in writing, involving, I presume, so far as his authority went, a proposal that *this church also* should be placed in our hands, and entering very fully and very judiciously into the way by which, on its restoration, it might be made more available for purposes of Divine worship, without destroying its architectural peculiarities. It was proposed, I think, to extend the chancel and its aisles two or three bays farther east, and convert them into a nave and aisles, and to add a chancel, the present round being reserved for an ante-chapel and baptistry, to which I need not say it is as admirably adapted in every respect, as it is ill-adapted to other congregational purposes. All this would involve many questions of the extent and of the style of the necessary restorations and additions. Of course, by a society like ours, which is rather conversant with the architectural and archæological character of a church than with its congregational use (though admitting all the while the infinitely greater importance of the latter), the round is the portion most to be considered; and this, I confess, it seems to me useless to *repair*. I think it must be rebuilt, the pillars in the interior alone remaining. Rebuilt, however, exactly, and, where possible, stone by stone on the original plan, utterly discarding the barbarisms as well of the twelfth and fourteenth centuries as of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The chancel is, at present, a great jumble of styles. That it should not, if it be converted as is proposed into a nave of larger dimensions, be restored and added to in the Norman style, I conceive on two grounds. First, that as a Norman chancel, it seems to have had no aisles; and, secondly, that it has been at one time a tolerably uniform specimen of another style, and this style was rather Early-Decorated, if the historical sketch I have just given be correct.

To this style, then, I would bring it back, by rebuilding the three arches into the chancel and its aisles, by rebuilding the south aisle in that style, retaining the arches and piers in the north, but continuing them eastward as far as necessary in the proposed Early-Decorated style of the present restoration, and thoroughly restoring, as they now are, in all matters of design, the north walls, windows, and buttresses of the north aisle. The east triplet, if it can be removed as it is, I would retain as the east window of the aisle; it would harmonize with the semi-Norman pillars and arches which would be left. The chancel, that is, the north chancel, I would wish to see either of the Early-Decorated of the new nave, or as much as might be in the style of the tower: perhaps, the latter would be best, for it does not affect in any degree to be restoration, but an addition *ab initio*.

I must add, that its restoration is now needed to complete the parallel of the history of this with that of the other three round churches, St. Sepulchre's in Cambridge, and the Temple, have been restored at a vast expense, and in a way and spirit which should stimulate us to do the like. Little Maplested is in course of restoration, though of this I have less certain information. I have somewhere seen St. Sepulchre's in its present state of dilapidation and disorder, spoken of as the glory and opprobrium of Northampton. Let it be the *opprobrium* no longer: let us hope that, if *glory* is too much to be derived from a restoration, it may at least be a *credit* to your fair town.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Hawes (*Yorkshire*).—The new church of St. Margaret, Hawes, was consecrated on Friday, the 31st. It has been erected at an expense of 2,300*l*. It is of the Decorated style, and consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north and south porches, and tower at the west end. Attached to the latter, at the south-east angle, is a staircase turret which rises above the battlements, and is finished with a small spire, and which gives access to the top of the tower. The nave is divided from the aisles on each side by five bays of circular piers and pointed arches; and opposite to each of the four easternmost bays is a window of three lights, with varied tracery, the porches occupying the remaining bay in the west. The roofs are of high pitch, and open to the ridge, presenting an uninterrupted height of 50 feet, the rafters having arched braces springing off shafts attached to the wall pieces. The seats are plain, but of open construction, stained and varnished. The nave and aisles are 60 feet 6 inches long, and 53 feet wide; the extreme length of the church, 99 feet 9 inches; tower, 22 feet 10 inches by 21 feet 7 inches, over walls; height to vane of turret, 104 feet. There are 560 sittings, of which 360 are to be free. The church is built of stone from the neighbouring hills, with rough walling and chiselled stone dressings. The church is placed on a considerable eminence in the centre of the town. An organ is to be placed in the church, the gift of Mr. R. Atkinson, of London; also a stone font, the gift of the architect. The church has been erected from designs by Mr. A. B. Higham, architect, and under the superintendence of Mr. Dickons.

Stonehouse (*Devonport*).—The Assembly Room in the St. George's Hall, Stonehouse, has been completed by the erection of an organ, from the establishment of Mr. Robson, London. It possesses all the modern improvements, and cost 350*l*., of which amount, however, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe generously contributed 250*l*. We are glad to find, according to the local *Independent*, that the promoters of this building are likely to get a fair return for the money they embarked in it. They have already rents amounting to an income of 306*l*., which will pay 5 per cent. on an expenditure of 6,000*l*., or probably, after paying for insurances, repairs, &c., may enable

To learn more about OCR and PDF Compression go to ThePaperlessOffice.org